

the spine or the rupture of an abscess. More usually the onset is gradual. A flaccid monoplegia or a single band of anesthesia naturally indicates root involvement, while spastic paraplegia with Babinski's sign or anesthesia of the whole region below the lesion indicates spinal compression. The motor troubles generally precede, and indicate a better prognosis when unaccompanied by general sensory changes.

The author then indicates the four types into which he divides the manifestations. He points out the evil of flaccidity ensuing upon spasmody. As to the troubles of object sensibility, they do not always correspond with the level of the lesion. A syringomyelic or contrary dissociation indicates a destructive lesion of the interior of the cord, and it is prognostically bad as are bed sores and sometimes cystitis, which favor secondary infections. The author cites Dejerine's case, and adds two others where lepto-meningitis followed bed sores probably by infection along the nerves.

The diagnosis is only difficult when the root signs are equivocal; but these even when present, may be due to other causes. In its later stages Pott's disease may be mistaken for acute myelitis, which, however, is distinguished by lumbar puncture; but if syphilis complicates, great difficulty is presented. The author shows the difficulty of diagnosis in cases of polyneuritis, amyotrophy, radicular sciaticas of Lortat Jacob and Sabreanu, of myelomalacia, of pachymeningitis hypertrophica, of syringomyelia, and of spinal paraplegias of the old, as well as with the classical tumor, aneurysm and other spinal compressions.

The most important element in the diagnosis is the root signs; but even their presence does not always make diagnosis possible.

The prognosis is not always bad; but the cure requires several years. It consists of immobilization and general hygienic measures.

The author follows Chipault in his disapproval of surgical intervention. A bibliography of recent work is given.

TOM A. WILLIAMS (Washington, D. C.).

BEITRÄGE ZUR DIAGNOSTIK UND THERAPIE DER GESCHWÜLSTE IM BEREICH DES ZENTRALEN NERVENSYSTEMS. Von Prof. Dr. H. Oppenheim, Berlin. S. Karger, Berlin.

This short contribution to the study of tumors of the brain and spinal cord is a report of several cases occurring in Oppenheim's practice. Most of the cases have been reported in the current medical literature. They reflect the skilled neurological technic of the author. The surgical procedures are extensively considered. As case histories alone are considered, we cannot go further into this contribution than to commend it to working neurologists.

JELLIFFE.

THE DANCING MOUSE. By Robert M. Yerkes, Ph.D. The Macmillan Company, New York.

The author tells us that this book about that species of rodents more properly called the dancing mouse was written for three purposes. First to present accurately and briefly the results of experiments made by the author, secondly, to give as complete a history of the dancer as a thorough study of all the observations made by others on the subject would permit; and thirdly to provide a text-book for reference in the study of animal behavior.

The dancing mouse is supposed to have come from Japan. C. Schumberger once came across an old Japanese wood carving which represents a group of dancing mice. In this carving one half the mice were white and black as were both the father and the mother; of the others two were a pure white and the other two entirely black. From this Schumberger infers that the dancer is the result of the crossing of two other species, namely the black mouse and the albino.

In experiments made by W. Haacke and G. von Guita, by crossing dancers with common white mice they both obtained a gray or black mouse which behaved very much like the wild house mouse; in them the dancing movement disappeared. When the race of waltzing mice is crossed with the race of albino mice, the waltzing habit partially if not entirely disappears. When hybrids produced by the cross just mentioned are paired, they produce dancers in the proportion of about one to five.

The movements which gives the mouse its name is a "giddy whirl" in which the performer merely goes around and around in circles, sometimes to the right and sometimes to the left, as fast as possible, and on all fours, the head pointing inward.

There are three kinds of dancers: those which whirl almost entirely towards the right, those which whirl towards the left, and those which whirl in either direction. The female mice are observed to dance more than the males.

The most important result of the study of the dance of these mice is that there are individual tendencies to turn in a particular direction, and the fact that the whirling increases in amount from morning to evening.

The power of equilibration in the dancing mouse is in general very complete; the seeming reduction which appears under certain conditions should be attributed not to visual dizziness, but in part to excitability and restlessness, and in part to reduced muscular power. The dancers, however, possess less power of grasping with their toes than do common mice, and are also greatly hindered in climbing and moving on narrow planes, owing to their tendency to move in circles. The adult mouse, as has been seen by Yerkes shows more timidity in climbing, etc., than the younger mice, but the younger are the more apt to fall.

The dancing mice are said to be deaf, the reason found by Rawitz being that the utriculus opens broadly into the scala tympani and the nervous element of the cochlea are degenerated. Yerkes says that the cause of the deafness is "secondary nature." The primary change is the broad opening between the utriculus and the scala tympani from which results the streaming of the endolymph from the semicircular canals into the cochlea. When as a consequence of the rapid whirling movements a large quantity of endolymph is hurled into the scala tympani, the organ of Corti in the scala vestibuli is fixed and its parts are rendered incapable of vibration.

In summing up the chapter on structural peculiarities and behavior, Dr. Yerkes says: "All the facts of behavior and physiology which have been established lead us to expect certain marked structural differences between the dancer and the common mouse. The bizarre movements, lack of equilibrational ability, and the nervous shaking of the head suggests the presence of peculiar conditions in the semicircular canals, or their sense organs; and the lack of sensitiveness to sound indicates defects in the cochlea. Yet, strange as it may seem to those who are

not familiar with the difficulties of the study of the minute structure of these organs, no structural conditions have been discovered, which account satisfactorily for the dancer's peculiarity of behavior."

The work makes an interesting introduction to the series and offers more than the usual information in a narrow field of research.

SYLVIA JELLIFFE.

ZUR PSYCHOLOGIE UND THERAPIE NEUROTISCHER SYMPTOME. Eine Studie auf Grund der Neurosenlehre Freuds. Von Dr. Arthur Muthmann. Verlag von Carl Marhold, Halle a. S. 1907.

This monograph is written with the avowed purpose of substantiating the hypotheses of Freud with reference particularly to the nature, origin, and treatment of hysteria and psychoneuroses.

The first part of the work is a very excellent setting forth of Freud's position, particularly his sexual theory of the origin of hysteria. The author accepts this theory in its entirety and in the analysis of a number of cases shows how it is possible to trace the sexual origin even to the early years of infancy and childhood. It would seem that he carries the theory to needless extremes when he endeavors to explain the constipation of women by voluntary retention of fecal matter so that they may experience the voluptuous sensations accompanying evacuation of the rectum, or the frequency with which young men choose the occupations of coachmen and conductors by the pleasing sensations resulting from the constant jarring incident to their work.

Three cases are given at considerable length to illustrate the sexual origin of the symptoms and the value of the psycho-analytic method of their treatment. Particular stress is laid upon the frequent associations of anxiety with a sexual complex, particularly with unfulfilled sexual longings. The method of treatment in all these cases was satisfactory and the author hopes may have spared them the exquisitely chronic and almost hopeless course that is not infrequently seen in the severe forms of hysteria.

In the closing pages the author quotes approvingly Bleuler's remarks to the effect that it makes no difference whether the therapeutic results Freud obtains can be reached in other ways, whether it is good to talk with old or young women about their sexual life, whether conversion, substitution, or defensive reactions in the sense of Freud exist, whether all or only part of that enormous complex of diseases which we call neuroses are dependent upon the sexual sphere. Answer these special questions as we will the significance of the discovery is in no way lessened.

It would seem that this temperate and conservative position of Bleuler leaves little to desire and that it is worth while harking back to when one is tempted to criticise rather harshly some detail of the theory.

Muthmann's work is well worth reading and constitutes a distinct contribution to the much disputed and illy understood subject of the psychoneuroses, and it is no small advantage that its style is pleasing and less ponderous than that of the master.

WHITE.